

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

By Green

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome for exemplary service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing those outstanding organizations and their members who serve as advocates for the greater good and help to establish a better life for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, no finer such organization can be found than that of the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome, a group whose exemplary mission is to educate and create a supportive network for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and their community; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition in which structural changes to the brain cause delays in the development of communication, cognitive abilities, and motor skills; and

WHEREAS, those individuals with Down syndrome experience greater success in their communities, learning, working, and playing with their non-disabled peers when met with a supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome (CADS) recognize the need to create informed and caring communities, which can greatly enhance the day-to-day well-being for individuals with Down syndrome and help them acquire positive social, academic, and vocational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome was founded by Patricia Hanna in 2009; the newly formed organization served about a dozen loving families, and it has since expanded to supporting more than 130 families in nine counties across Middle Tennessee and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the board members and guiding force of the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome are O'Neal Wiggins, Jr., Lily Wellington, Holly McDonald, Emily Medvecky, Sandra Mayo, Tresca Ramtahal, Hollie Dueker, Kelly A. Kleinhans, Patricia Hanna, and Paul LoBianco; and

WHEREAS, thanks to CADS, countless individuals with Down syndrome and their families have experienced a network of compassionate friends looking to make their world, and the State of Tennessee, a better place; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this legislative body pause to specially recognize the extraordinary efforts of this group of valiant advocates who have brought about change to benefit countless Tennesseans and their families today and for years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Clarksville Association for Down Syndrome for exemplary service to the State of Tennessee and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in all of the organization's future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.